*All New Haven children, birth through 8 are healthy, safe, thriving in
nurturing families and prepared to be successful lifelong learners.*

**NHECC Council Meeting Minutes**

March 1, 2017

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

United Way of Greater New Haven

**Announcements**

Kim Harris announced that they have a teacher in residence funded by the Graustein Memorial Fund.

Fair Haven Stroll is May 6, 2017. Council and others can host a table. Flyer was distributed at the meeting.

Immigration Concerns:

Liz Teller expressed that some families are fearful of referrals due to immigration changes. She offered to assist with speaking to families.

Susan Logston noted that she has seen children not attending preschool because of fear.

Cathy Lenihan noted that this will be a topic for Help Me Grow breakfast on Wednesday, April 5 at the United Way of Greater New Haven.

Other Resources Mentioned:

* CT legal services set up a hotline for families
* CT Child Family Center has a list of resources that families can use.
* Eliza will forward the protocol that NHPS uses

Items for further consideration:

How will the Council advocate and support community efforts on this issue?

**Racial Equity Retreat Update**

Gladys provided a brief summary of the retreat experience. Other attendees shared their experiences as well. Allyx noted that work around the inner Council work versus the outer work of the council and the polarities that were explored during the retreat.

The Racial Equity Committee will be following up with the retreat facilitator (Niyonu) to schedule a follow meeting. The RE Committee will also be holding a session to plan future work the Council can bring to providers.

**By-Laws**

Dr. Kimber suggested that the Council establish a clear timeline and add additional members to the bylaw committee .

Dr. Kimber made a motion to expand the committed to at least 6-7 people and be completed and have the by laws reviewed at the April 5th mtg.

The BL Committee will send the draft by-laws to the council prior to the meeting.

The motion was 2nd by Sue Logston

Volunteers to be on the committee: Sandy, Cathy, Dr Baker, Sadie, Rev Kimber, Lynn, Kim

Council will provide feedback and the committee will return with the final draft at the May meeting.

**Attendance to Committee Meetings**

It was decided that all committee meetings are open (including Operations) and a meeting schedule should be distributed to all Council members with the dates, times, and locations of all meetings. Randi sent a schedule out recently. She will send an updated version with all meetings by the end of the week.

**Updates**

Dr. Okafor shared that the Mayor commissioned a group to work on the immigration issue. The working group includes the Board of Ed, the Chief of Staff and community orgs and agencies such as DCF to develop a Human Capacity Preparedness Plan. The document is scheduled to be ready by March. The distribution plan is also under development.

Randi provided an on the FY18 Budget. Sarah, Jayne and Rand met with Martha to discuss the City’s contribution to the Council’s overall budget. Grant submissions for the Community Foundation, Kellogg Foundation and Graustein are in the budget plan.

PreK Access and Enrollment will be meeting with Dr. Okafor on March 13, 2017 to discuss the status of the Early Childhood Plank of the City Transformation Plan. Updates will be provided at the April Council Meeting.

The Quality Committee discussed the 2020 initiative advocacy work and the infographic and the plan to meet with legislators to discuss the impact this legislation has on program funding. There is a current bill that will push the date to 2023. The QE Committee is supporting this bill.

Cathy Lenihan suggested that someone from OEC come to talk to the Council about the burden of the OEC requirements on Care4Kids providers.

The Infant/Toddler Committee is in the process of finalizing its brochure for birth to three services that families should be aware of.

Grants Committee is working on the upcoming School Readiness and Quality Enhancement Grant. There will be updates provided at the April Council Meeting.

Dr. Okafor announced a partnership between City, NHPS and others working to help low-income families know how to take advantage of resources to help children with testing. Martha to forward where these events will be happening and Randi will forward to the council members.